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JIM LEACH
IA

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COMMITTEE
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 26, 1979

ACTION
is assigned to
EA

The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

RE: CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Dear Secretary Vance:

I appreciate Assistant Secretary Bennet's letter of February 16 responding to my inquiry regarding refugee accounts of the possible usage of chemical weapons in Laos.

Given the extraordinary significance of the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia and the Chinese intrusion into Vietnam, I would like to urge that U.S. intelligence give priority attention to monitoring possible usages of chemical warfare by any of the involved parties in the ongoing conflict in Southeast Asia.

Further, I would urge that appropriate U.S. representatives raise with the parties our concern that such weapons not be utilized in this unfortunate conflict. Weapons of this nature should not be legitimatized by further usage or experimentation and our government should go on strong, timely record in this regard.

I would be appreciative of your informing me of any further information developed on this issue and any further international consideration given to chemical weapons usage in Southeast Asia as in a general arms control context.

Sincerely,

Jim Leach
Member of Congress

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DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

JL:jmc

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY L. Glennie DATE 6/8/82
XDS EXT. DATE
EXISTING REASON(S)
MARKINGS ☐
RELEASABLE ☑
DENIED ☐
FOI EXEMPTIONS

OFFICES:
1724 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6576

210 JEFFERSON
BURLINGTON, IOWA 52601
(319) 752-4984

131 EAST 4TH STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52801
(319) 326-1041

400 SOUTH CLINTON
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
(319) 351-0062